

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-21 and 29.

Please amend claim 22, 23, 24, and 28 as set forth below.

Please add claims 30, 31, and 32.

The claims being examined, including amended and original claims, are shown below.

1.-21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) A method of reducing NO_x emission during fluid catalytic cracking of a hydrocarbon feedstock into lower molecular weight components said method comprising contacting a hydrocarbon feedstock with a cracking catalyst suitable for catalyzing the cracking of hydrocarbons at elevated temperature whereby lower molecular weight hydrocarbon components are formed in the presence of a NO_x reduction composition, wherein said NO_x reduction composition comprises (i) an acidic oxide support, (ii) ~~at least 0.5 part by weight of cerium oxide per 100 parts by weight of acidic oxide support~~, (iii), ~~at least one 0.5 part by weight of at least one oxide of a lanthanide series element other than ceria per 100 parts by weight of acidic oxide support~~ and (iv), optionally, an oxide of a transition metal selected from Groups Ib and IIb of the Periodic Table, wherein the ratio of (ii) to (iii) ranges from at least 1.66:1 by weight, said NO_x reduction ~~component~~ composition being present in a sufficient NO_x reducing amount.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 22 wherein said cracking catalyst and NO_x reduction composition comprises an admixture of ~~separate the cracking catalyst component~~ particles and particles of the NO_x reduction composition ~~component~~.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 22 wherein said cracking catalyst and NO_x reduction composition comprises an integral

combination of the cracking catalyst ~~component~~ and the NO_x reduction composition ~~component~~.

25. (original) The method of claim 22 wherein said cracking catalyst is fluidized during contact with a hydrocarbon feedstock.
26. (original) The method of claim 25 further comprising recovering used cracking catalyst from said contacting step and treating said used catalyst under conditions to regenerate said catalyst.
27. (original) The method of claim 22 wherein said hydrocarbon feedstock contains at least 0.1 wt % nitrogen.
28. (currently amended) The method of claim 22 wherein said at least one oxide of a lanthanide series element other than ceria is praseodymium oxide.
29. (cancelled)
30. (new) The method of claim 22 wherein said NO_x reduction composition includes positive amounts of (iv) said oxide of a transition metal.
31. (new) The method of claim 30 wherein said transition metal is selected from the group consisting of copper, silver, zinc, and mixtures thereof.
32. (new) The method of claim 30 wherein said transition metal is copper.